

NSC BRIEFING

6 May 1954

MAY DAY PARADE

I. The fly-by included both new bomber types seen in rehearsals. These were:

A. Jet heavy bomber - but only one (Type 37) seen.

1. Not quite as big as US B-52 - length 130 to 150 feet (comparison: B-52 - 156 feet).

B. Jet medium bomber - nine of these seen.

1. Comparable to US B-47.

2. Number of engines uncertain - two or four - each of two large nacelles could hold two engines.

II. Also participating were:

A. Familiar IL-28 jet light bombers - 81 of them.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS ☐
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USAF review(s) completed.

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- B. Relatively new jet fighters (formerly designated Type 38 by Western intelligence: now known by their Soviet designation, MIG-17) - 85 of them.

III. Precise performance estimates on the new heavy and medium bombers await technical assessments of photographs and other information.

IV. DI/USAF comments:

- A. Preliminary analysis of early poor-quality photographs suggests that Type 37 "reflects the most advanced features seen to date in Soviet bomber aircraft."
- B. Press reports of "new twin-jet fighters" apparently refer to IL-28 jet light bombers.

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V. O/NE states, with reference to the effect of these sightings on existing estimates:

- A. The appearance of only one Type 37 in flight at this time does not appear to affect existing estimates.
- B. The participation of nine of the new jet medium bombers suggests that series production may have begun as early as July 1953; i.e., somewhat before the earliest previously estimated date, January 1954.
(SNIE 11-2-54)

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